

RMGC Policies & Procedures

Policy #7: Use of Golf Buggies.

A. General.

The RMGC sought specialist advice from an internationally renowned agronomist on the capacity of play and the effects of wear & tear caused by that play on our undersized Golf Course. Accordingly, the BOM has limited the number of buggies that may be used on the Course to 16: 8 for rental to members, guests and visitors through Reception; and 8 for members' own use.

Buggies owned by members must always be garaged in one of the eight RMGC buggy sheds.

The Office maintains a Waiting List of Full Members wishing to rent a buggy shed. If one becomes available the General Manager will advise those on the Waiting List – first refusal will be offered to the Member who has been waiting longest.

Buggies may be driven only by those authorised and never by those under the influence of alcohol or drugs. They can carry no more than two persons and a maximum of two golf bags. All drivers must be at least 16 years old.

Buggies cannot be used in official competitions during the season unless prior approval has been obtained from the Captain's Committee. The use of buggies (except by staff) may be prohibited on all or parts of the Course when the Course is wet.

Buggies must be operated with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of others on the Course. Pedestrians must be afforded the right-of-way at all times. Under no circumstances may buggies be driven on public roads. They must be operated and parked in such a manner that they do not impede or interfere with normal pedestrian or vehicular flow on roadways, ramps or pavements.

Rental buggies must be returned directly after use to the area from which they were collected; buggies owned by members must be returned directly after use to their buggy sheds.

B. Terms & Conditions.

Members, guests and visitors will be asked to confirm that they accept liability for any personal injury or damage to property that may occur when using the buggy rented to them by the Club.

The cost of repair of damage to the Course &/or buggy and the cost of cleaning the buggy if returned in an unacceptable condition may be charged to that member, guest or visitor.

All users of buggies must observe the following Operating Instructions and the Safety Instructions that are also displayed prominently in buggies rented by the Club and in buggies owned by members. Violation may lead to disciplinary action, loss of playing privileges and/or removal from the Course without refund.

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C. Operating Instructions.

The following instructions assist in the presentation and maintenance of the Course and help minimise damage:

- Buggy users are instructed wherever practicable to keep their buggies on paths or on the rough. Buggies must not be driven down the length of a fairway but should be driven across the fairway by the shortest distance to the players' balls. Buggies should then be moved immediately back onto the nearest path or rough to travel to the next shot.
- Blue lines, barrier ropes or signs that mark a buggy exclusion zone around some tees and greens must not be crossed and wet areas should be avoided. Where no blue lines are evident, buggies must not be driven within 10 yards of the tees or greens.
- The use of buggies around greens must be minimised. Buggies should be parked once beside (not in front of) the green and players should then walk to the green. In order to encourage good speed of play, players are advised to take a selection of clubs to the ball and to keep their buggies level with play at all times.
- Buggies must not be driven within 10 yards of water hazards or bunkers.

D. Safety Instructions.

All users of buggies, whether drivers or passengers, should read the Operating Instructions before using the buggy and observe the following Safety Instructions:

- Never stand directly in front of or behind the buggy when it is being started.
- Operate the buggy only from the driver's side.
- Two persons and two golf bags per buggy maximum.
- Do not start the buggy until all occupants are seated.
- Remain seated and keep entire body inside the buggy while it is moving.
- The passenger should hold onto the seat handle while buggy is moving.
- Drive slowly in turns and straight up and down slopes.
- Use brakes to reduce speed when coasting downhill.
- Apply the brake whenever leaving the buggy.
- Do not leave young children unattended in the buggy.

Note that rolling a buggy or falling off a buggy may cause serious injury or death.

Prepared by BOM: 9th October 2013

Last reviewed and approved by BOM: 20th April 2021